

From: Frank Degnan [mailto:degnan@degnaandivers.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2006 9:49 PM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: Package 2 @ vs. Package S

Dear Sirs,

I am currently the Diver Representative for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, and the Diving Safety Officer for California State University Monterey Bay. However, I am writing as a private citizen who has been an active scuba instructor in the Monterey Bay area for over 20 years. During that time I have seen a marked decrease in both the number and size of fish found at the popular dive sites in Monterey and Carmel. This concerns me with regard to both Marine life protection as well as the quality of the dive experience to be had in Monterey Bay. These dive sites are where many users of our oceans receive a firsthand introduction to our coastal waters and the life contained therein. Dive sites teeming with fish can help engender a love of and passion for the ocean that will serve us all well in future years. Dive sites barren of fish life do not create the same sense of wonder and commitment to our oceans. Therefore I am concerned that Package S does not afford adequate protection for fish and marine life in general. Nor does it afford adequate protection for dive sites in Monterey and Carmel. I urge you to accept package 2 as the best solution to meet the needs of not only the waters of central California but also those of us who use those waters.

Sincerely,

Frank Degnan